

The Commonwealth

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THE COMMONWEALTH

"CIA & FBI Are Undermining the Rights of the People They Are Supposed to be Protecting," says Halperin

FRIDAY FLASHES — MAY 6th

From Address by
DR. MORTON HALPERIN, Director,
Project on National Security and Civil Liberties

"The topic of my address today is the crimes of intelligence agencies. I will be talking about some of their activities which are in my view in clear violation of the laws of this land and of the Constitution. People of the intelligence agencies feel that these subjects should not be discussed. They describe these matters as 'state secrets' which if released, they say, would injure the national security of the United States.

Constitutional Violations

We have found that the information which is to be kept secret is information which is readily available to foreign governments, to our potential enemies, and is in fact being kept only from the American people.

It is important to understand that the U.S. intelligence agencies and the law enforcement agencies which are supposed to be protecting our security in fact engage in deliberate and systematic violations of our Constitutional rights.

The FBI engaged in a series of illegal and unconstitutional programs. It engaged in wiretaps without warrants against people who were being investigated for criminal activities. It engaged in burglaries

called 'black-bag jobs.' In defending these activities within the Bureau, senior officials of the FBI said that these activities were clearly illegal, but they were useful and should have been carried out.

WLM-Subversive?

The FBI had a program of infiltration and surveillance of political organizations in the U.S., for example, Klu Klux Klan, Communist Party, Socialist Workers Party, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and many others. This infiltration and surveillance were not based on the belief that these organizations were breaking the law. It was based on the belief that the FBI had a right and a patriotic duty to investigate people whose politics the Bureau disapproved of, or whose political activities might be of interest to the Communist Party in the U.S., or political activity which the Bureau thought jeopardized the status quo within the U.S.

One of the groups which came to the attention of the FBI was referred to as the WLM, the Women's Liberation Movement. Mr. Hoover sent out a directive saying that the Bureau had decided that the Women's Liberation Movement should be infiltrated and put under surveillance. As a result, many memorandums were sent out including one from the office in New

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